

1917.73393

13656993

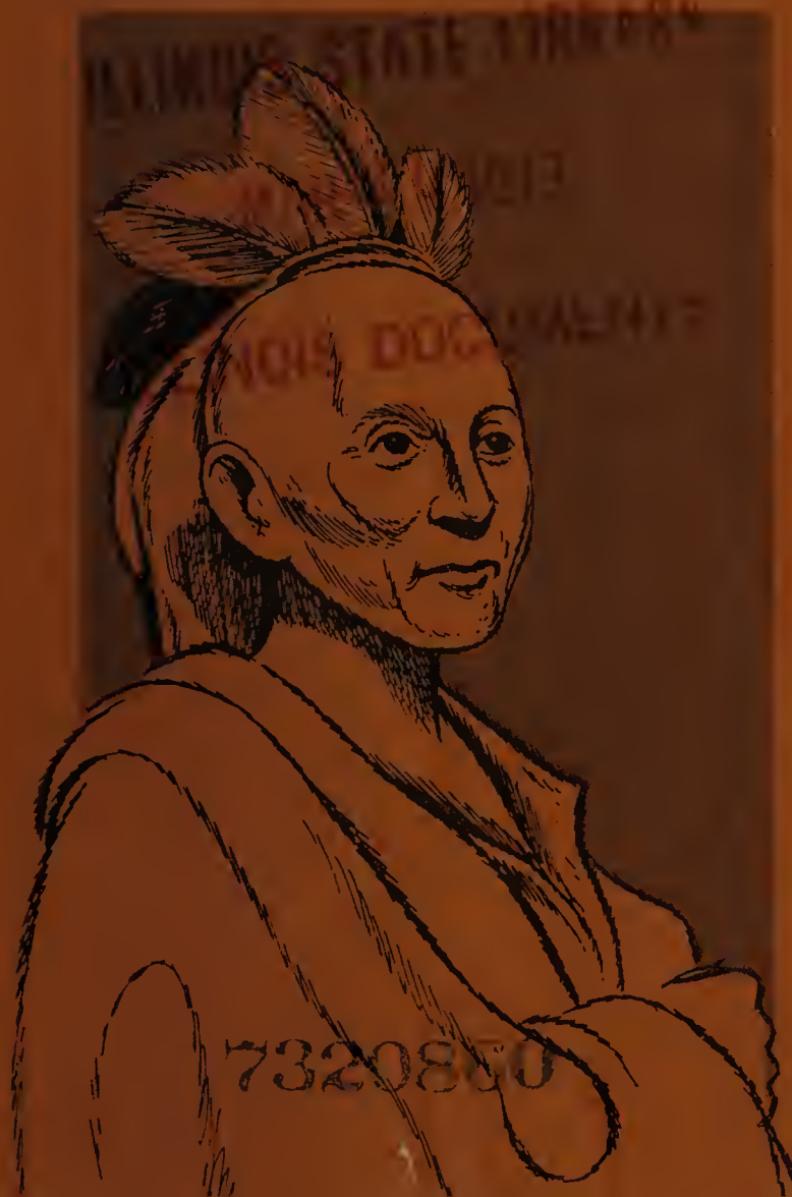
BLAC
1973
c.3

ARCHIVAL COPY

BLACK STATE PARK

black hawk

STATE PARK



I917.73393

BLAC

1973

C. 3

THE PARK

Black Hawk State Park, in Rock Island County, adjoins Rock Island to the south off U.S. Rt. 67 and on Illinois Rt. 2. The park borders the Rock River several miles above where the river joins the Mississippi River. The 207-acre tract, acquired in 1927, is wooded and steeply rolling, with a variety of bird and plant life.

What is now Black Hawk State Park was once one of the largest Indian centers in North America. For most of a century on this site stood the capital villages of the Sauk and Fox nation. They made their start here with a small number about 1730, driving the Kaskaskia out before them. They prospered until they had brought parts of Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri and all of Iowa under the fear of the fighting ability of their warriors.

HISTORY

War With England: During the Revolutionary War, part of the Sauk and Fox served with the British, while others aided the Americans. In the western campaign of the war, Col. John Montgomery and 350 Americans, including 100 Spanish soldiers from St. Louis, destroyed the great Indian village in 1780. Various chiefs of the tribes in 1804 ceded the land on which the village stood to the United States. But Black Hawk, who was head of the pro-English element, refused to recognize the cession, a stand for which many modern historians find justification.

Divided again in a second war with England, the pro-British Indians remained here and, led by Black Hawk in 1814, defeated the Americans at Campbell's Island, nine miles northeast of the park site and now a state memorial. This engagement was fought partly on land and partly on water from canoes. At Credit Island, two and a half miles below and west of the park, the Indians won another battle. These successes convinced Black Hawk that the Indian was supreme and would remain so for many years. But the press of white settlement forced Black Hawk's followers across the Mississippi River in 1831 with the promise that they would not return without permission of the whites.

Under treaty, the land at Rock Island still belonged to the Indians until sold by the United States. The frontiersmen, however, were impatient and began to occupy the site of Black Hawk's village. Black Hawk at last found himself in a hopeless war against the white man.



Black Hawk Captured: For a time in 1832 northwestern Illinois was kept in terror by Indian raids. The frontier sprang to arms and the Illinois militia and several regiments of the regular army were sent to the scene. Following several sharp skirmishes, Black Hawk was chased into the wilderness of southern Wisconsin, culminating in a decisive defeat of the Indians a few miles south of Bad Axe on August 2, 1832. A few days later Black Hawk was captured and, after several months captivity during which time he was taken to Washington D.C., he was permitted to return to his people in Iowa where he died in 1838.

The Black Hawk War, in addition to clearing the way for white settlement, brought together a number of men who later gained distinction. Abraham Lincoln, Captain of the Illinois militia, was sworn into the service of the United States. Jefferson Davis, later president of the Confederacy, was a lieutenant in the regular army. Zachary Taylor, then in command of the First U.S. Infantry, served with his men in the Rock River valley. Among others were Gen. Winfield Scott and Robert T. Anderson, who was to obtain fame at Fort Sumter in 1861.

INDIAN POW-WOW

The most powerful reminder of the Indian is the annual Pow-Wow held each year at the park on Labor Day weekend. Staged in a natural bowl with a backdrop of trees, the state has built an amphitheater that accommodates 5,500 people. The performers are the Fox from Tama, Iowa, and the Sauk from Oklahoma, including direct blood descendants of Black Hawk.

The Pow-Wow is sponsored by a council of civic and historically minded people of the Quad-Cities of which the late John H. Hauberg served as president for a number of years.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

Admittance will not be granted groups of 25 or more persons to any state park or conservation area unless permission from the park ranger has been secured to use the facilities. It is also required that groups of minors have adequate supervision and that at least one responsible adult accompany each group not exceeding 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous State Parks and Memorials are within easy access of every part of the state. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, White Pines Forest and Giant City. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

All state parks are open the year around. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of park roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to park facilities is by foot only.

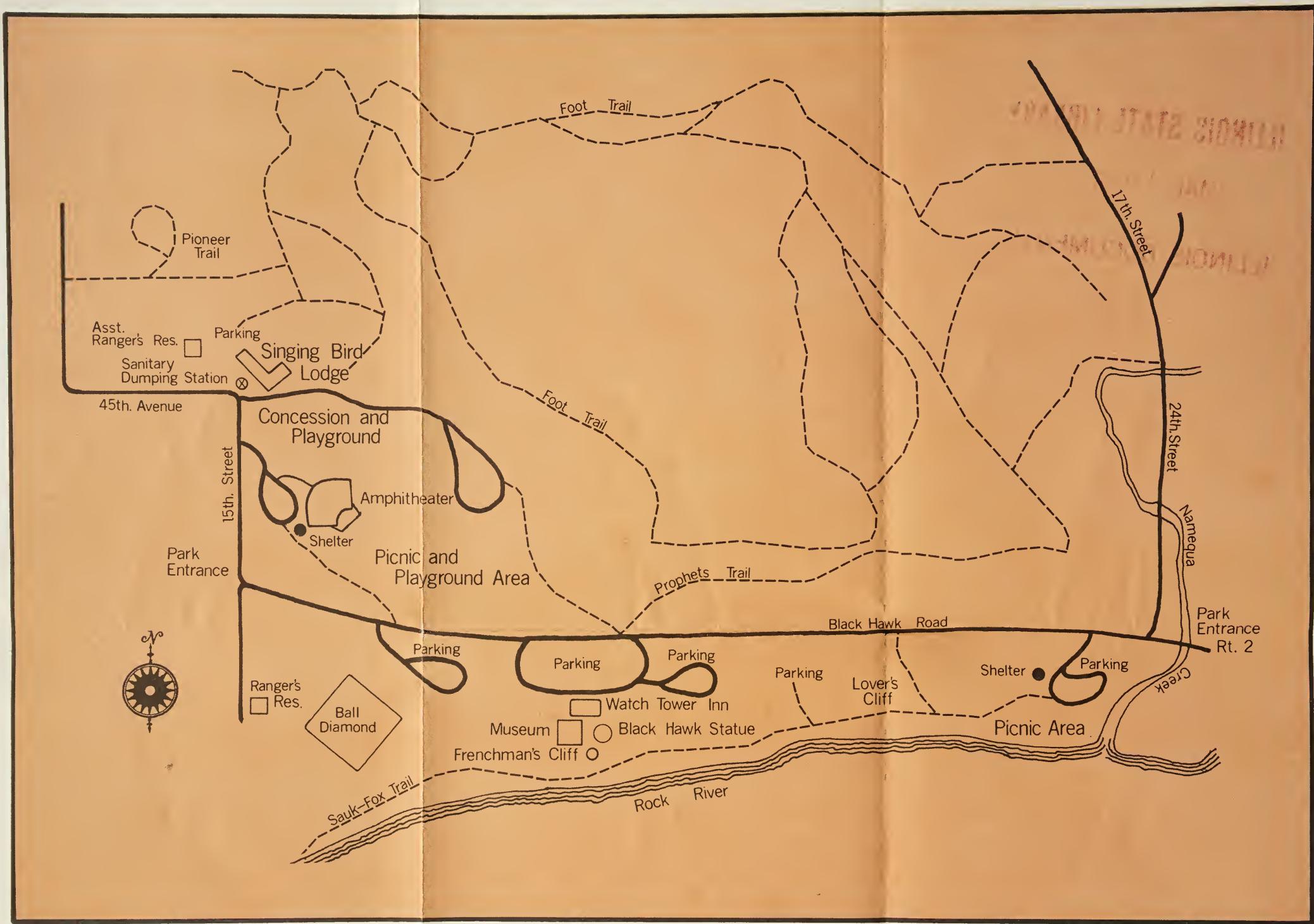
For further information concerning Illinois State Parks and Memorials write to the Division of Education, Department of Conservation, State Office Building, Springfield, 62706.

FACILITIES

Picnicking: There are several scattered picnic areas with plenty of shade, tables, water and stoves. Two shelter houses with stone fireplaces are available. Playground equipment is nearby and the concession stand is by the Pow-Wow.

Hiking: Designated trails through the woods wind for several miles within the park.

Baseball: A baseball field near the Watchtower Inn is available for day or night play.



Watch Tower Inn: This structure is made of stone and heavy timbers and is decorated in the Indian motif. Consisting of dining rooms, a large lounge and a recreation room, this building is open the year round and has facilities for serving special parties or groups. Close to the Inn is a large stone statue of Black Hawk.

Museum: The Hauberg Museum, named in honor of Dr. John H. Hauberg, houses a collection of Indian relics and paintings. Dr. Hauberg, who is responsible for most of these artifacts, collected them from all over the world as well as from this country.

Summer Interpretive Program: This program is designed to provide activities to the visitor and relate him to his environment and natural resources.



Printed by authority of the State of Illinois
Issued by
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Division of Parks and Memorials
50M-4-73



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



3 0112 122555805